

WREM 60 and Bryte Chemical Laboratory

WREM 60 required the QA/QC program to develop guidance documents in order to implement the policy. A number of these documents referred to Bryte Chemical Laboratory which provides surface water, ground water and wastewater analytical services for the Department. Bryte Lab contracts for analytical services that it cannot perform internally. WREM 60 required that Bryte Lab develop a quality assurance laboratory manual (*Quality Assurance Technical Document 8*). This document is located on Bryte Lab's website: <http://www.water.ca.gov/waterquality/drinkingwater/brytelabs.cfm>.

The document contains important information about QC in the lab, analytical methods, instrumentation, etc. Program managers are advised to familiarize themselves with this manual because it contains details needed to develop Data Quality Objectives when designing a project. It is also important for Program Managers to discuss their sampling plans with the Lab Director at the design stage of a project to select the appropriate analytical methods and also so that the lab can plan for the project's workload.

Another WREM 60 requirement was for the QA/QC program to develop a Department-wide Quality Assurance Program Plan to be approved by the Director. WREM 60 stated that "This document will identify goals, organizational structure, individual responsibilities, and management procedures as they relate to implementation and administration of the Quality Assurance/Control Program" (QAMP). The QA/QC program developed the 'Quality Assurance Management Plan for Environmental Monitoring Programs' or QAMP (*Quality Assurance Technical Document 5*) which was signed by the Director in 1998.

Among other things, the QAMP addressed the QA/QC requirements for contracted services, equipment and records. The QAMP required that Bryte Lab and all contract labs follow USEPA analytical procedures or equivalent. Contract labs are also required to be certified by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) except where an analytical method is not certified by ELAP.

Third, WREM 60 required the QA/QC program to update QA guidelines to ensure the quality of data from analytical labs. The QA/QC program updated the document 'Quality Assurance Guidelines for Analytical Laboratories' (*Quality Assurance Technical Document 1*) in 1997. This document reemphasized that under DWR's Laboratory Services Policy, Bryte Lab is responsible for all contracted analytical services. This includes developing and overseeing contracts, ensuring that the contract labs are certified and conducting performance and system audits of contract labs when needed.